

Transitions... *A look at CAL FIRE's newest unit & staff chiefs*

Fresno-Kings Unit (FKU)

Chief Keith Larkin

By Meredith Fleener, office technician, Communications, Sacramento Headquarters



On April 2, 2007 Chief Keith Larkin was appointed Unit Chief of the Fresno-Kings Unit. Larkin brings with him 33 years of fire-fighting experience. Raised in the small town of Weaverville, CA, he began his CAL FIRE career as a seasonal firefighter in 1974 in the Shasta-Trinity Unit.

He promoted to Assistant Chief in 1997, at the CAL FIRE Academy as Director of Curriculum. In 2000, he transferred to the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit (TCU) as the North Division/Camp Division Chief. In 2004, he became the TCU Administration Officer. In 2005, he promoted

to Forestry and Fire Protection Administrator/Staff Chief as the Department Training Chief.

Now he strives to provide leadership, support, and direction for the entire unit. "Our unit has developed excellent relationships with the public and the media – I hope to keep us well recognized for our service and providing the highest quality of people."

Larkin believes the greatest aspect of CAL FIRE lies within its employee's tremendous work ethic, "That's a common thread in our department - we take pride in our service."

Fire Protection Operations Unit (SAC)

Chief Andy McMurry

By Mary Beth Kihlthau, student assistant, Fire Protection, Sacramento Headquarters



On January 1, 2007, Chief Andy McMurry was selected as the new staff chief of operations at Fire Protection Headquarters. Chief McMurry started his career with CAL FIRE in 1982 as Fire Fighter I in the San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit. Throughout the past twenty-five years with CAL FIRE, Chief McMurry has worked in Mendocino, Fresno-Kings, Sonoma and Tuolumne-Calaveras units.

Chief McMurry said he had many career opportunities with CAL FIRE; the most rewarding of them was being able to be the firefighter causality family

liaison for the Schicke family in 2004. He is looking forward to assisting CAL FIRE in making the jump from the traditional mission to the new all-risk mission. Chief McMurry sees his role as making sure systems are in place and work properly so that resources get to where they need to go.

Chief McMurry's father and older brother are retired CAL FIRE employees and his other brother and sister-in-law are currently fire captains. Chief McMurry and his wife Sue, will be celebrating their nineteenth wedding anniversary in May.